

Proposal for Legislation -- 2009 Medicaid Buy-In

PROPOSER'S NAME/TITLE: Joan Miles, director, DPHHS, Gail Briese-Zimmer, administrator, OPCA

ORGANIZATION: Department of Public Health & Human Services

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1. What is the problem or issue?

Disabled persons with high medical expenses are often times forced to quit their job in order to maintain medicaid eligibility.

2. What do you want the legislation to do?

Provide a "buy-in option" to the Medicaid program for individuals with disabilities meeting the Social Security Administration definition of disability, but an income exceeding normal limits for medicaid eligibility if they were working, in order for them to return work or maintain employment.

Allow the Department to make the necessary changes in Montana law to the Medicaid program that will allow the medicaid buy-in program.

3. If possible, please list the MCA (Montana Code Annotated) sections that would need to be amended.

MCA 53-6-131

4. If the proposed change requires additional funding, what funding sources do you propose?

State general fund and Federal Medicaid funds

5. Has similar legislation been requested in the past, been introduced in another state, or provided as a model act? If so, please provide a citation, reference, or point of contact.

No legislation has been proposed in Montana. But, thirty-four states have a Medicaid Buy-In Program. References to information about the buy-in program can be found through Mathematica Policy Research, Inc., the National Consortium for Health Systems Development, and Allen Jensen, George Washington University Medical School, who developed the cost/benefit analysis for Montana.